

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 08673 232324Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 SAB-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
DODE-00 /049 W

-----232333Z 113740 /71

O R 232256Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0155
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PN
SUBJECT: GOP RELEASE OF TORRIJOS-KISSINGER LETTER

REF: USIS/PANAMA 8670 DTG 232145Z

1. THE LETTER BY TORRIJOS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER OF NOV. 29
WAS READ, WITHOUT COMMENT, ON PANAMANIAN RADIO AND TV AROUND
2:00 P.M. DEC. 23. THE AFTERNOON PAPERS HAD NO MENTION OF
THE LETTER.

2. JUST BEFORE THIS, FABIAN VELARDE AND ROMULO ESCOBAR
BETHANCOURT, ADVISORS TO TORRIJOS, HELD A PRESS
CONFERENCE AT WHICH THE LETTER WAS RELEASED. THERE WERE
SEVERAL QUESTIONS, BUT NEITHER THE QUESTIONS NOR THE
ANSWERS ADDED TO THE CONTENT OF THE LETTER.

3. VELARDE HAS TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE PANAMANIAN
GOVERNMENT PLANS TO TREAT THE MATTER "SOBERLY".

4. COMMENT: TORRIJOS HAS ACTED IN ANGER TO THE JACK
ANDERSON COLUMN WHICH STATED THAT REPORTS TO THE PENTAGON
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HAD SPECULATED THAT THE NATIONAL GUARD WAS INVOLVED IN
RECENT BOMBINGS IN THE CANAL ZONE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE
THAT THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BRING MUCH IF ANY ANTI-AMERICAN
VIOLENCE AS A RESULT OF THIS REVELATION. TOMORROW IS,
AFTER ALL, CHRISTMAS EVE. THERE MAY BE A VITRIOLIC PRESS
CAMPAIGN, PARTICULARLY IN THE ERSO PAPERS. WE WILL BE WATCHING

THE SITUATION CLOSELY OVER THE HOLIDAYS.

5. TORRIJOS HAS TAKEN WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE ESSENTIALLY A TACTICAL MOVE TO PRESSURE THE U.S. INTO THE EARLY SIGNING OF A TREATY. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT, AT THIS POINT, HE HAS ANY NOTION OF EITHER BREAKING OFF NEGOTIATIONS OR PRECIPITATING A SERIOUS CONFRONTATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

6. THE EMBASSY MADE LAST MINUTE EFFORTS TO DISSUADE (THROUGH VELARDE) THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT FROM THIS ACTION. BUT WE WERE INFORMED THAT IT WAS TOO LATE; THE DIE WAS CAST. WE DOUBT THAT, EVEN NOW, TORRIJOS KNOWS THE HEAT OF THE FIRE WITH WHICH HE IS PLAYING.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: PFOR, PN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (TORRIJOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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